



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard  
Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DPSCS Reviewing Procedures and Policies In the Wake of Yesterday's Hospital Escape in Laurel**

TOWSON, MD (January 3, 2008)---Maryland Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Gary Maynard and Commissioner of Correction J. Michael Stouffer are thoroughly reviewing policies and procedures in the wake of yesterday's inmate escape from Laurel Regional Hospital.

On the issue of correctional officers being armed during hospital trips, the Department is committed to working with the unions that represent correctional officers to determine whether any change is necessary.

Maryland's state prison system, operated by the Division of Correction, (DOC) has 24-hour medical care available throughout the system, with dispensaries in all facilities, and larger prison infirmaries in every region: Cumberland, Hagerstown, Jessup, Baltimore, and Westover.

Inmates who are sent out via 9-1-1 ambulance for emergencies go to the closest hospital as directed by the EMS system; the prison medical staff has no say in where an inmate is transported.

Each month, the DOC supervises more than 800 inmate medical transports for everything from routine follow-up medical visits to surgeries and cardiac cases and assaults. These are cases that cannot be handled at prison infirmaries as determined by the contract medical staff, who supervise the medical needs of more than 22,000 inmates in the DOC.

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